AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, where insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions), while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~) or enclosed in double brackets (e.g., [[deletion]]).

1. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure between the cover and the wound; and

an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of the tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, said absorbable matrix being located between the wound and the cover;

wherein:

the absorbable matrix comprises a first absorbable portion formed from a first material having a first rate of absorption of tissue into the first absorbable portion and a second absorbable portion formed from a second material having a second rate of absorption of tissue into the second absorbable portion, the first material being different than the second material and the first rate of absorption being different than the second rate of absorption;[[:]]

the cover comprises a temperature-sensitive material configured such that a user or practitioner can monitor the temperature at the site of the wound by monitoring the appearance of the cover.

2. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the first rate of absorption is greater than the second rate of absorption, and the absorbable matrix is positioned in the wound such that the first absorbable portion is generally adjacent to the deepest portion of the wound and the second absorbable portion is generally closer to the cover than the first absorbable portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion of the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An appliance for monitoring pressure during treatment of any body part of a patient, comprising a cover adapted to cover and enclose the body part being treated and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the body part being treated, wherein:

the cover comprises a plurality of protrusions, each of which is spaced apart from the other protrusions across an outside surface of the cover and configured to monitor the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated; and

each protrusion comprises at least one surface that is configured to be exposed to the space between the cover and the site of the body part being treated beneath the cover.

7. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

8. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of protrusions are configured to displace inwardly as the reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases such that the amount of inward displacement of the protrusions increases as the reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

9. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of protrusions supported by the cover are configured to displace inwardly in an increasing amount as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

10. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the protrusions are in the shape of hills or bumps.

11. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the protrusions are in the shape of a bellows.

12. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the protrusions have a color different from the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or a different shade of the

same color as the shade of the color on the remaining surface of the cover, and wherein the color or the shade of the color of the protrusions changes as the protrusions are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

13. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, further comprising sound means, wherein the sound means produce an audible sound as the protrusions are displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

14. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure in a space between the cover and the wound;

a conduit configured to supply a source of reduced pressure to the space between the cover and the wound; and

a pressure monitor supported by the cover and positioned so as to be separate and spaced apart from the conduit so that the pressure monitor is not in contact with the conduit;[[,]]

wherein:

the pressure monitor comprises at least one surface that is configured to be exposed to the reduced pressure in the space between the cover and the wound; and

the pressure monitor is ~~being~~ configured to provide a visual indication of the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound such that a visual inspection of the appearance of the pressure monitor provides an indication of the level of reduced pressure in the space between the cover and the wound.

15. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

16. (Original) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a packing material adapted to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue, the packing material being located between the wound and the cover.

17. (Original) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, the matrix being located between the wound and the cover.

18. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor comprises one or more protrusions supported by the cover, each protrusion being configured to move between at least an expanded state and a compressed state, wherein each protrusion is configured to move toward the compressed state as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

19. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor comprises one or more protrusions configured to be exposed to the reduced pressure in the space between the cover and the wound ~~supported by the cover, each protrusion being configured to displace in an increasing amount toward the wound as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases~~.

20. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each protrusion is in the shape of a hill or bump.

21. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each protrusion is in the shape of a bellows.

22. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, wherein each protrusion has a color different from the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or a different shade of the same color as the shade of the color on the remaining surface of the cover, and wherein the color or the shade of the color changes as the protrusion is displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

23. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 19, further comprising sound means, wherein the sound means produces an audible sound as the protrusion is displaced away from the remaining surface of the cover.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Withdrawn) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising:

a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system, and

reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound.

33. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 32, wherein the reduced pressure provided by the vacuum system is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

34. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 32, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

35. (Withdrawn) The appliance of Claim 6, further comprising:

a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system; and

reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound

36. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 35, wherein the reduced pressure provided by the vacuum system is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

37. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 35, wherein the reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing, and further comprising a flotation valve within the container for blocking the tubing when a predetermined amount of fluid is collected within the container.

38. - 56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a conduit configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and a space between the cover and the wound so as to transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the space between the cover and the wound.

58. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, further comprising a third absorbable portion formed from a third material having a third rate of absorption of tissue into the third absorbable portion, the third rate of absorption being different than the first rate of absorption and the second rate of absorption.

59. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the first absorbable portion substantially surrounds the second absorbable portion.

60. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a material that is configured to change appearance when the temperature at the site of the wound changes, wherein such material is supported by the cover.

61. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor and the cover are formed so that the pressure monitor is integral with the cover.

62. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a conduit comprising a first portion configured to communicate with a source of reduced pressure and comprising a second portion configured to communicate with the cover so that the conduit can transfer the reduced pressure supplied by the source of reduced pressure to the cover.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of protrusions has a closed end portion.

67. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the cover defines a periphery and the pressure monitor is positioned within the periphery of the cover.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Canceled)

70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of protrusions cover at least the majority of the cover.

72. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of protrusions cover substantially all of the cover.

73. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the cover is generally planar in use.

74. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the cover is a flexible sheet.

75. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein each of the protrusions is spaced apart from the other protrusions such that no adjacent proximal protrusions are touching.

76. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the cover is a flexible sheet.

77. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the cover is a flexible sheet.

78. (Currently Amended) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound so as to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, wherein the cover comprises a plurality of protrusions positioned across an outside surface of the cover arranged so as to project away from the outside surface of the cover, the plurality of protrusions covering at least the majority of the outside surface of the cover and each having an inside surface that is configured to be in direct communication with the reduced pressure beneath the cover.

79. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, wherein the plurality of protrusions cover an area of the outside surface of the cover at least as large as the area of the wound.

80. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, wherein the plurality of protrusions have a bellows-type configuration.

81. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, wherein the plurality of protrusions are configured to displace inwardly as the reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

82. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, wherein the plurality of protrusions supported by the cover are configured to displace inwardly in an increasing amount as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

83. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, wherein the appliance further comprises an adhesive material on at least a portion of the cover, the adhesive material being adapted to at least secure a portion the cover to tissue surrounding the wound.

84. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, further comprising a packing material adapted to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue, the packing material being located between the wound and the cover.

85. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, further comprising an absorbable matrix adapted to encourage growth of tissue in the area of the wound into the matrix, the matrix being located between the wound and the cover.

86. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 78, further comprising:

a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure;

a collection system that is operably connected to the vacuum system, and

reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply the reduced pressure within the cover to the wound.

87. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 86, wherein the reduced pressure provided by the vacuum system is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

88. (New) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the protrusions are configured to monitor the level of the pressure at the site of the body part being treated.

89. (New) The appliance of Claim 88, wherein the protrusions change color or change shade as a level of pressure exerted on the protrusions changes.

90. (New) The appliance of Claim 14, wherein the pressure monitor comprises one or more protrusions supported by the cover, each protrusion being configured to displace in an increasing amount toward the wound as the level of reduced pressure between the cover and the wound increases.

91. (New) The appliance of Claim 14, further comprising a pump configured to provide reduced pressure to the space between the cover and the wound.

92. (New) The appliance of Claim 78, wherein at least some of the protrusions have a color that is different than the color of the remaining surface of the cover, or the protrusions have a different shade of the same color as the remaining surface of the cover.

93. (New) An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound, comprising:

a wound dressing comprising:

a cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure in a space between the cover and the wound; and

a pressure monitor comprising a protrusion protruding above a surface of the cover and configured to be displaced downward to provide a visual indication of a level of reduced pressure beneath the cover;

a vacuum pump; and

a conduit configured to connect the vacuum pump to the dressing.

94. (New) The appliance of Claim 93, wherein the pressure monitor is supported by the cover and spaced and positioned so as to be separate and spaced apart from the conduit so that the pressure monitor is not in contact with the conduit.

95. (New) The appliance of Claim 93, wherein the pressure monitor comprises at least one surface that is configured to be exposed to the reduced pressure in the space between the cover and the wound.

96. (New) The appliance of Claim 93, further comprising a collection container in communication with the vacuum pump.

97. (New) The appliance of Claim 96, wherein the collection container includes a shutoff mechanism for halting the supply of reduced pressure to the appliance in the event that exudate aspirated from the wound exceeds a predetermined quantity.

98. (New) The appliance of Claim 93, wherein the cover is a flexible, fluid impermeable cover.

99. (New) The appliance of Claim 93, wherein the cover comprises adhesive.

100. (New) The appliance of Claim 93, further comprising foam sized and configured to be placed under the wound dressing at the site of the wound.